

Appln. No. 09/813,210
Amendment dated December 29, 2004
Reply to Office Action of October 5, 2004

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration of the present application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

The October 5, 2004 Office Action and the Examiner's comments have been carefully considered. In response, claims are cancelled and added, and remarks are set forth below in a sincere effort to place the present application in form for allowance. The amendments are supported by the application as originally filed. Therefore, no new matter is added.

PRIOR ART REJECTIONS

In the Office Action claims 1-14 are rejected under 35 USC 102(e) as being anticipated by USP 5,982,999 (Aoyagi et al.).

In response, claims 1-14 are cancelled and new claims 15-26 are added.

The present claimed invention as defined by independent claim 15 is directed to an image forming apparatus which forms an image on a recording sheet. The image forming apparatus includes an image forming member which forms an image on a wide sheet and a sheet feeder which feeds the wide sheet to the image forming member. The image forming apparatus also includes an image input section which sets a reference recording sheet having a predetermined sheet size for the wide sheet whose size is larger

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than the predetermined sheet size of the reference recording sheet, and a controller which controls the image forming member so as to form an image on the wide sheet such that a first central point of the wide sheet defined in terms of a main scanning direction perpendicular to a feeding direction of the wide sheet by the sheet feeder is placed on a first center line of the image, wherein the first center line is perpendicular to the main scanning direction, and one side of the image is parallel to one side of the wide sheet.

As recited in new claim 15, the present invention is directed to an image forming apparatus which uses a wide sheet (see Fig. 3 of the present application).

As recited in new claim 15, the image forming apparatus includes an input section to set a reference recording sheet (205) having a predetermined sheet size for a wide sheet whose size is larger than the predetermined sheet size of the reference recording sheet (see Fig. 22 of the present application). Accordingly, if an A4 size sheet of paper is set as the reference recording sheet, since an A3 size sheet is larger than an A4 size sheet, the A3 size sheet is deemed by the apparatus as a wide sheet.

Then, the controller of the present invention controls an image forming member to form an image of a regular size sheet (an

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A4 size sheet) on a wide sheet (a B-4 size sheet, for example) in accordance with the procedure recited in claim 15 (as shown in Fig. 3 of the present application).

As a result of the present claimed invention, a problem described at page 3, line 17 to page 4, line 19 and illustrated in Figs. 14-16 of the present application can be solved. That is, a degree of freedom in a cutting process for a wide sheet can be increased. An operation for setting image formation to form an image of a regular-size sheet onto a wide sheet can be easily accomplished.

Aoyagi et al. teach a technique to edit image data and to form an image in accordance with the edited image data on, for example, a postcard as illustrated in Fig. 12. Aoyagi et al. do not, however, disclose, teach or suggest forming an image on a "wide sheet" and the structure to form an image of a regular-size sheet onto a wide sheet.

Accordingly, since there is no motivation to solve the problem of forming an image of a regular size sheet onto a "wide sheet" in Aoyagi et al., the present claimed invention is not anticipated nor rendered obvious by the teachings of Aoyagi et al.

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That is, the present claimed invention as defined by claim 15 is patentable over the cited reference because the reference does not disclose, teach or suggest:

An image forming apparatus for forming an image on a recording sheet, comprising:

an image forming member which forms an image on a wide sheet;

a sheet feeder which feeds the wide sheet to the image forming member;

an input section which sets a reference recording sheet having a predetermined sheet size for the wide sheet whose size is larger than the predetermined sheet size of the reference recording sheet; and

a controller which controls the image forming member so as to form an image on the wide sheet such that a first central point of the wide sheet defined in terms of a main scanning direction perpendicular to a feeding direction of the wide sheet by the sheet feeder is placed on a first center line of the image, wherein the first center line is perpendicular to the main scanning direction, and one side of the image is parallel to one side of the wide sheet (see claim 15, lines 3-18).

Claim 16-23 are either directly or indirectly dependent on claim 15 and are patentable over the cited reference in view of their dependence on claim 15 and because the reference does not disclose, teach or suggest each of the limitations set forth in claims 16-23.

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Claim 24 is a method claim which corresponds to claim 15.
Claim 24 is patentable over the cited reference for reasons,
inter alia, set forth above in connection with claim 15.

Claims 25 and 26 are dependent on claim 24 and are
patentable over the cited reference in view of their dependence
on claim 24 and because the reference does not disclose, teach or
suggest each of the limitations set forth in claims 25 and 26.

It is respectfully believed that no additional fees are due
for the presentation of claims 15-26. However, if any additional
fees are due for the presentation of claims 15-26, please charge
our Deposit Account No. 06-1378 for such sum.

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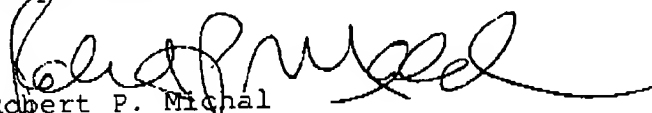
Entry of this Amendment, allowance of the claims and
the passing of this application to issue are respectfully
solicited.

If the Examiner disagrees with any of the foregoing, the
Examiner is respectfully requested to point out where there is
support for a contrary view.

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If the Examiner has any comments, questions, objections or recommendations, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the telephone number given below for prompt action.

Respectfully submitted,



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